

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A coil spreader system for use in and in combination with a plastic spiral in a plastic spiral bound book binding machine comprising a first spreader member for significantly spreading apart a leading edge of said plastic spiral prior to entry of said plastic spiral into a first hole of a row of holes in a book to be spirally bound, a second spreader member for significantly spreading apart the leading edge of said plastic spiral at the last hole of said row of holes, to compensate for said first and last holes having bridge distances from ends of said book greater than a predetermined spacing of said holes, said first spreader member insertable within respective coils of said plastic spiral at respective points before said leading edge of said spiral enters a said first hole and said second spreader member forces open opens and guides said plastic spiral after said plastic spiral enters said trailing last hole.

Claim 15. (Canceled).

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A coil spreader system for use in and in combination with a plastic spiral bound book binding machine as in claim 14, wherein said first spreader member and said second spreader member each comprise a base with a blade attached at an oblique angle, said blade having a surface with a curved contour with a rounded corner to spread the leading edge of said spiral without damage to the spiral.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A coil spreader system for use in and in combination with a plastic spiral bound book binding machine as in claim 14, wherein said first spreader member further comprises:

an upper member for receiving and spreading said plastic spiral before entrance into said first hole of said book to be binded, adjustably connected to a fixed comb clamp

member, and having an engaging guide slot with a convex edge positioned at the distal end of said upper member; and

a lower member for aligning said spiral coil with the end surface of said book to be binded, adjustably connected to the lateral surface of said fixed comb clamp member, and having a rounded tip edge, a threaded set screw hole and a spiral guidance groove.